

Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility Recommended for Re-Accreditation

Media Contact:

Department of Correction

Java Ahmed

(317) 234-1693

E-mail: jahmed@doc.in.gov

Eric Anthony, NEJ Public Information Officer

(260) 497-7233 , ext 111

eanthony@doc.in.gov

David Hartzler, NEJ Superintendent

(260) 497-7233, ex. 101

dhartzler@ doc.in.gov.

Fax: 260-497-7543

It is our vision to be a model correctional agency and a proven innovative leader in a manner consistent with sound correctional principles. By providing effective education and treatment programming for our youth consistent with correctional best practices, we can make a genuine difference in these young lives. The recommendation for re-accreditation for the Northeast Juvenile facility confirms Indiana's national leadership role in corrections and juvenile justice. Superintendent Hartzler and staff are to be commended for their efforts."

J. David Donahue, Commissioner

Fort Wayne, Indiana – (October 27, 2006) – The Indiana Department of Correction announced today that the Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility has been recommended for re-accreditation through the American Correctional Association (ACA). The accreditation audit was the first by ACA since their initial accreditation audit in 2003.

The Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility passed 100 percent of all the mandatory ACA standards and 97.7 percent of all non-mandatory standards. In order to pass the ACA audit, a juvenile correctional facility must comply with 100 percent of 33 mandatory standards and 90 percent of 422 non-mandatory standards. ACA's standards reflect the current national policies and procedures with regard to the care, treatment, custody, and control of juvenile offenders.

“It is our vision to be a model correctional agency and a proven innovative leader in a manner consistent with sound correctional principles. By providing effective education and treatment programming for our youth consistent with correctional best practices, we can make a genuine difference in these young

lives,” said Commissioner J. David Donahue. “The recommendation for re-accreditation for the Northeast Juvenile facility confirms Indiana’s national leadership role in corrections and juvenile justice. Superintendent Hartzler and staff are to be commended for their efforts.”

"A facility’s first re-accreditation audit is often the toughest challenge staff face in the accreditation process since it demands continued compliance for three consecutive years. The comments by the Visiting Committee and their recommendation for re-accreditation is a testament to the professionalism, dedication and concern for children that facility employees exhibit daily," said Superintendent David Hartzler. "We have the opportunity to improve our operations and programs whenever we are examined by our peers.”

Superintendent Hartzler noted that Jeff Rogers, the Visiting Committee Chairperson for ACA, was particularly impressed with the dedication and caring for kids demonstrated by the Department Heads and line staff, and with the cleanliness and overall sanitation of the facility.

“The recommendation for re-accreditation this week does not signal the end of our involvement in the process. This facility will continue to work to improve any opportunities identified during the audit and maintain continuous compliance with these national standards,” added Superintendent Hartzler.

The Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility opened in its present location on the northwest side of Fort Wayne in 2001 and houses juvenile males who have been adjudicated delinquent from counties throughout Indiana.

About American Correctional Association

The Standards and Accreditation Department of the American Correctional Association (ACA) serves a dual mission of providing services for ACA and the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections (CAC). These services include the development and promulgation of new standards, revision of existing standards, coordination of the accreditation process for all correctional components of the criminal justice system, semi-annual accreditation hearings, technical assistance to correctional agencies, and training for consultants who are involved in the accreditation process.

About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department’s home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department’s Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.